

Resolution No.:	18-62
Introduced:	February 10, 2015
Adopted:	February 24, 2015

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Riemer, Berliner, Floreen, and Navarro

SUBJECT: Resolution to support the principles of the Next Century Cities Coalition

Background

1. High-Speed internet is fundamental infrastructure. It is similar to roads, sewers, bridges, electrical grids, and natural gas mains. Given the information and innovation-based economy that is constantly evolving, fast, reliable, accessible, and affordable internet is no longer simply a luxury. Residents, businesses, schools, libraries, and public safety officials need broadband connectivity to thrive.
2. The internet is nonpartisan. Since a fast, reliable, accessible, and affordable connection to the internet is a necessary resource for all individuals, businesses, and organizations, its provision transcends partisanship and enjoys a diverse support base.
3. Local communities must be free to craft local solutions. Solutions to broadband needs must align with each community's unique makeup. All options – whether public, non-profit, corporate, or some hybrid – should be considered free from outside interference.
4. Providing broadband infrastructure is a community-wide project. Effective broadband networks require the collaboration and input of a diverse array of stakeholders, including anchor institutions, internet service providers (large and small), businesses, real estate developers, community organizations, the local government, and importantly, residents. Every member of the community should enjoy access to the broadband networks on reasonable terms.
5. Real competition drives quality and innovation. A vibrant, transparent, and competitive marketplace for broadband service improves quality, spurs innovation, drives investment, and puts downward pressure on prices. Communities, residents, and businesses deserve more and better options.
6. Collaboration regionally and nationally benefits everyone. Not only do broadband networks cross jurisdictional lines and thus benefit from regional collaboration, but communities across the county should learn from each other's experience to lower costs and improve outcomes.


7. The Next Century Cities Coalition is a group of cities and municipalities that is dedicated to helping its member realize the full power of truly high-speed, affordable, and accessible broadband. Its members are Seattle, Palo Alto, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Boston, Austin, Chattanooga, and Portland, among many others.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council affirms the principles of the Next Century Cities Coalition as summarized above.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda M. Lauer".

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council